

Publication Date: May 26, 2026

Reflection Date: May 24, 2026 - [The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity](#)

For God So Loved the World

When I hear the passage from the Gospel of John 3:16, the gospel reading for the celebration of [The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity](#), I'm immediately taken back to my childhood dinner table, legs swinging under the chair, doing my best to memorize this verse for Sunday school. If I could recite it on command, I'd earn a sticker and probably an extra handful of stale pretzels or graham crackers. Over time, it became so familiar, so tip-of-the-tongue, that I stopped hearing it.

This Sunday gives us a chance to slow down and listen again.

“For God so loved the world...”

Not feared the world.

Not condemned the world.

Not tolerated the world.

Loved it.

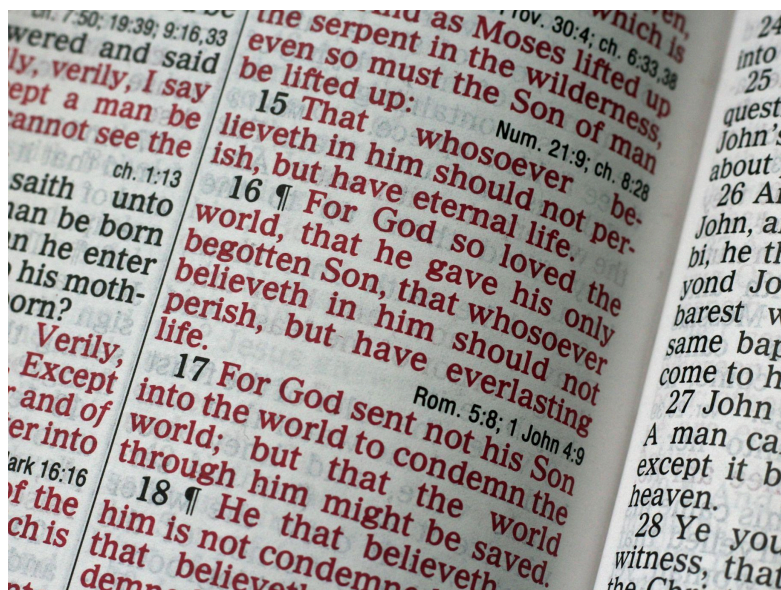


Photo by wisconsinpictures on Unsplash

In some Christian traditions, “the world” is spoken of as something God is angry at. But how could a loving God be angry with what God created—created out of love? According to the Gospel of John, this verse is not a threat or a transaction. It is a proclamation of God’s unconditional love for all creation.

Franciscan theologian John Duns Scotus taught that Christ’s coming was not a reaction to human sin but part of God’s plan from the beginning. As Fr. Richard Rohr summarizes: “Jesus did not come to change the mind of God about humanity; Jesus came to change the mind of

humanity about God. God does not love us because we are good. God loves us because God is good.”

If this is God’s character, then Jesus’ command to “love one another as I have loved you” is not just a warm, fuzzy idea. It is the daily work of following Him. Compassion is what God feels. Justice is compassion put into practice, the way love becomes real in the places we live and the systems we shape.

This matters in a time marked by economic inequality, dehumanization, and deep polarization. If God so loves the world, then our work must reflect that same expansive love, especially toward those whose dignity is threatened by poverty, violence, or exclusion. Love that seeks justice inevitably becomes peacebuilding. And peacebuilding is not passive. It is the active reshaping of systems, relationships, and communities so they reflect the compassion at the heart of God.

But belief cannot stay in our heads. In John’s Gospel, belief is not about agreeing to an idea but entrusting ourselves to a way of life. It must become embodied. We are called to be passionate about compassion, to let God’s love transform how we see, how we act, and how we build a more just and peaceful world.

Brady Young

Franciscan Federation

Suggested Action: Read Pope Leo XIV’s new encyclical [Magnifica humanitas](#) and consider how you might build a more just world by advocating for people, the planet, and peace.

Suggested Petitions:

That we always remember God’s love for the world and for each person, all of whom were created in love and for love, we pray to the Lord

That we might work together to build a just society that is rooted in compassion and love, we pray to the Lord

Prayer

God of mercy and unconditional love, who loves us even in our shortcomings and in the ways we have contributed to harming your creation, help us attune ourselves to your presence in our lives and in our world.

Guide our hands to build a world where every person and all creation know and feel they belong.

Make our belief visible in the way we live.

Let these words become more than words.

Amen.

Don't Miss FAN's Upcoming Annual Benefit

FAN staff traveled last week to see and participate in the amazing work of the **Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit**.

This year's program will highlight the incredible work of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, which has served the community for nearly a century through meals, clothing, and supportive services. Please join us for FAN's most important fundraiser of the year, our annual online Benefit, **Dignity First: Nourishing Lives, Transforming Communities**,



on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 7 pm Eastern Time on Zoom**. As we have done since 2023, guests are invited to sponsor or purchase a ticket, with the option to “give away” their meal to someone in need, while joining a live online program rooted in Franciscan values. Join us and together, we can put dignity first. [Join us](#).

Webinar: The Long Story of Creation and the Work of Ecological Healing



Stories of extraction, community, and kinship from the Permian Basin to the Arctic

Sr. Joan Brown, OSF

Thursday, May 28

7pm ET/6pm CT/4pm PT

[Click here](#) to register.

The Long Story of Creation and the Work of Ecological Healing, with Sr. Joan Brown, OSF, is the opening webinar in a four-part series in 2026: Franciscan Eco-Spirituality: Renewing Our Vision in a Jubilee Year.

The webinar will explore extractivism, integral ecology, and the spiritual worldview needed for this moment. Drawing from her work in the Permian Basin, insights from the recent Santa Marta gathering, and her upcoming journey to the Arctic, she will weave these stories into the 800th anniversary of St. Francis and the call to care for our common home.

Sister Joan Brown, OSF, Co-Founder and former Executive Director of [New Mexico-Interfaith Power and Light](#), is a Catholic Franciscan sister whose farm roots, justice work, and integral ecology studies ground her lifelong commitment to Earth care and community organizing.

FAN is collecting signatures on a joint comment to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in response to proposed amendments to the Coal Combustion Residuals Regulations that would loosen regulations on coal ash. You can [click here to sign this joint comment](#).

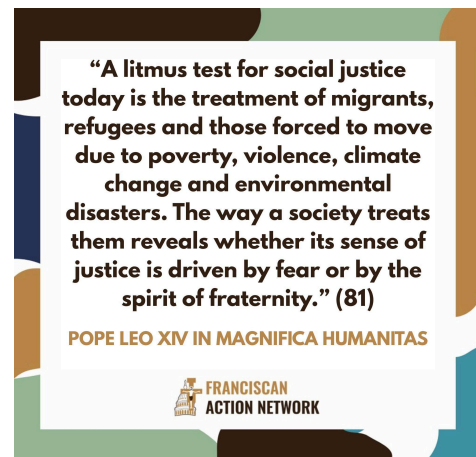
Urge Congress to Vote NO on a Deportation-focused Reconciliation Bill

Please contact your members of Congress and urge them to vote NO on a deportation-focused budget and reconciliation package. Communities and families affected by the cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, and ACA are coming together to say enough!

They were recently [joined](#) by fourteen Catholic Bishops who sent a letter opposing this reconciliation bill. They write, “As pastors, we remain troubled by how immigrants, the vast majority of whom have committed no crimes and have built equities in the country, have become targets for enforcement, with their God-given human dignity and human rights being violated on a daily basis.”

The [\\$72 billion dollar reconciliation bill](#) focuses on ICE and CBP funding. Republicans are pushing the package through a special partisan process known as reconciliation, which would allow them to bypass the Senate filibuster. This week may be the decisive week.

[Take action button](#)



Pope Leo's New Encyclical Centers Human Dignity

“Current AI systems require enormous amounts of energy and water, significantly influencing carbon dioxide emissions, and place heavy demands on natural resources. As their complexity increases, especially in the case of large language models, the need for computing power and storage capacity grows too, which requires an extensive network of machines, cables, data centers and energy-intensive infrastructure. For this reason, it is essential to develop more sustainable technological solutions that reduce environmental impact and help protect our common home.” (101)

POPE LEO XIV IN MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS



Pope Leo XIV released his new encyclical *Magnifica humanitas* yesterday, May 25. During a time of rapid technological change, the pope calls for the proper regulation of technology while embracing that which makes us truly human. The document highlights the need for treating migrants with dignity, protecting creation, embracing dialogue and peace, and exercising the preferential option for the poor. You can read the full document [here](#). You can watch FAN Director of Communications Robert Christian's reflection [here](#).

Don't Miss Out on Early Bird Prices for Our Annual Conference

Registration is open for the **2026 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: *Ours to do*** on **November 7-9, 2026**. Through Franciscan formation, inspiring speakers, hands-on training, and civic engagement on Capitol Hill, we'll explore how live out our Franciscan values and advocate for a more just and peaceful world. See highlights and hear from people who attended last year's conference [here](#). We hope you will join us. [Click here to register](#). Sponsorship information is available [here](#).



to

Franciscan Justice Circles

The **CT-RI FJC** is collectively writing physical letters to their Members of Congress in favor of programs that address hunger at the national level. They've also decided to do an Offering of Letters to their state officials regarding the potential for state cuts to the SNAP program as of Oct 1 when the new federal cost sharing takes effect.

Members of the **Mid-Hudson Valley FJC** and the **Siena U. FJC** attended a grassroots Advocacy Day in Albany, promoting the NY Health Act, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act-PRRIA, and gun violence prevention efforts. This also involved followup after the office visits, thanking the legislators for their actions in support of the bills and urging them to stress the importance of voting on the bills before the current legislative session ends.

Upcoming [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) (FJC) gatherings:

CT-RI FJC: Tue. May 26 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

SE Wisconsin FJC: Tue. May 26 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

Texas FJC: Tue. May 26 at 7:15 pm CT via Zoom

Winston-Salem FJC: Wed. May 27 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Massachusetts FJC: Thur. May 28 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

W. Pennsylvania FJC: Thur. May 28 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom

NY State St. Kateri Virtual FJC: Mon. June 1 at 3:00 pm ET via Zoom

Kansas FJC: Tue. June 2 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

Ohio FJC: Wed. June 3 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. June 4 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

Central Maryland FJC: Thur. June 4 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

SoCal FJC: Thur. June 4 at 6:00 pm PT via Zoom

Chicagoland FJC: Sat. June 6 at 10:00 am CT via Zoom

To find out more about any of the [FJC](#) gatherings coming up or for information about joining or forming a Circle, please sign up [HERE](#).